

Appl. No. 09/998,392
Amdt. dated 10/26/2005
Reply to Office Action of 08/01/2005

REMARKS

Claims 1 - 13 are pending in the present Application. In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1 - 13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Nation in view of Burke.

Applicants have added new Claims 14 and 15 for consideration. For the reasons stated more fully below, Applicants submit that the claims are allowable over the applied reference. Hence, reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue are respectfully requested.

As stated in the SPECIFICATION, to bookmark a Web page, a user may have to access a server on which the Web page is stored. Often times, the user will have first accessed a Web portal such as Yahoo. Web portals generally arrange Web pages into categories. When the user accesses a Web portal, it would be greatly convenient if the user is alerted of the Web pages that the user has already bookmarked as the user may then not re-bookmark the Web page. The present invention provides a method that may be used to let a user know whether or not a Web page has already been bookmarked on the user's computer system.

According to the teachings of the invention, when there is a list of Web pages on a server arranged by categories, a comparison will be made between the Web pages in the list and Web pages in a bookmark folder on the user's computer system. All the Web pages in the list that are the same as the Web pages in the bookmark folder will be highlighted. This then tells the user that the

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(highlighted) Web pages on the server have already been bookmarked.

The invention is set forth in claims of varying scopes of which Claim 1 is illustrative.

1. A computer implemented method of **highlighting Web pages arranged in categories on a server** comprising the steps of:

comparing bookmarked Web pages in a bookmark folder with the Web pages in the categories; and

highlighting all the Web pages in the categories that are the same as the bookmarked Web pages. (Emphasis added.)

The Examiner rejected the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Nation in view of Burke. Applicants respectfully disagree.

Nation teaches a method of indicating when clickable image links of hypertext image maps of a computer web browser has been traversed. According to Nation, various web browsing software packages or other hypertext software packages keep a history of various nodes or links that a user has previously visited. This is done to indicate whether a node or link has already been visited anytime thereafter. The indication usually entails changing some feature of the text, e.g., color, font, underline, etc. But, until the disclosure of Nation, the indication only applied to textual links of alphanumeric characters. Nation then provides a method to also indicate whether a clickable image has already been visited.

Specifically, when a clickable graphical image is to be displayed, it is determined, using a history of image
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links that have been previously visited, whether the clickable image has been traversed. If so, some sort of a marker is used to indicate that the clickable image has already been traversed.

However, Nation does not teach, show or suggest the steps of highlighting Web pages arranged in categories on a server by comparing Web pages that have been bookmarked in a bookmark folder with the Web pages in the categories, and highlighting all the Web pages in the categories that are the same as the bookmarked Web pages as claimed.

Burke, on the other hand, purports to teach a system for storing bookmark files at a remote location. According to Burke, a bookmark file that is stored on a local computer system (i.e., a system that is being used by a user) may also be stored remotely for availability at anytime including when the local computer system is inoperative. When a bookmark file is being stored at a remote location, the file may be merged with another bookmark file which may have been previously stored thereat. When the bookmark files are merged together, bookmarked Web pages from the new bookmark file may be stored in categories or sub-folders in which bookmarked pages from the previously stored bookmark file are stored. The categories may be in accordance with a master set of theme and topic codes. In this case, individual pages will have been given a topic and theme code by the local system. After storing the bookmark file at the remote location, the user may at anytime download the file to any local system and the bookmarked pages will be displayed in their respective category.

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However, just as in the case of Nation, Burke does not teach, show or so much as suggest the steps of ***highlighting Web pages arranged in categories on a server by comparing Web pages that have been bookmarked in a bookmark folder with the Web pages in the categories, and highlighting all the Web pages in the categories that are the same as the bookmarked Web pages*** as claimed.

Since neither Nation nor Burke, alone or in combination, teaches the above-emboldened-italicized limitations of Claim 1, Applicants submit that Claim 1 and its dependent claims should be allowable over the applied references. Independent Claims 4, 7 and 10 and their respective dependent claims, which all incorporate the above-emboldened-italicized limitations shown in the reproduced Claim 1 above, should be allowable as well. Note that new Claims 14 and 15 also include the above-emboldened-italicized limitations and therefore should also be allowable.

Hence, Applicants once more respectfully request reconsideration, allowance and passage to issue of the claims in the application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: 

Volel Emile
Attorney for Applicants
Registration No. 39,969
(512) 306-7969

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